
The religious authorities in Thailand say they're introducing a 'good manners curriculum' to discourage behaviour seen as effeminate among novices. If successful, the new course is to be extended to many religious schools and monasteries. Andre Vornic has more:

The religious authorities say they're responding to **increasing irritation** among more conservative Thai **clerics** and members of the public with behaviour **perceived** as **effeminate**.

They're aiming to reduce or **eliminate the wearing of make-up** and tight robes by younger priests, and generally attitudes that **suggest** homosexual activity.

Of all Asian countries, Thailand is perhaps the most **tolerant of** homosexuality, which is often open and **flamboyant**. But it's still considered largely **incompatible with** Buddhist priesthood, with its traditions of **celibacy** and self-discipline.

Andre Vornic, BBC

Vocabulary and definitions

increasing irritation	feeling more and more annoyed and/or impatient
clerics	priests
perceived	here, seen
effeminate	used disapprovingly to describe a man who behaves or looks similar to a woman
eliminate the wearing of make-up	stop from putting on facial cosmetics (e.g. lipstick, mascara etc.)
suggest	here, may lead you think of, hint at
tolerant of	accepting (other people's different views)
flamboyant	intended to be noticed (especially by wearing brightly coloured clothes)
incompatible with	against, not suited with
celibacy	not having sexual activity (especially for religious reasons)

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8020311.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/04/090429_witn_thai_monks.shtml